



Finding success in your own sandbox

BRIAN (HOWIE) AUKEMA (96)

Science is like playing in a giant sandbox, uncovering the buried treasures of order and structure in creation. I love playing in sandboxes, metaphorically or otherwise. When I was choosing an undergraduate university, I wanted to find the best people to join me in my sandbox. Being somewhat sceptical when I came out of high school, I decided to try Redeemer for a year and then go to a *real* university to finish my honours biology degree. As it turned out, I did get my honours biology degree, but I never had to leave Redeemer's sandbox.



Howie Aukema

Science at Redeemer is sometimes seen as the "poor sister" of the Liberal Arts and Science curriculum. People question how well you can "do" science when your studies are complicated by all those humanities courses. But the overwhelming consensus of Redeemer's science alumni is that Redeemer has prepared them well for a life in the sandbox.

The feature that alumni mention most about Redeemer's science program is not even specific to the program itself: small size and subsequent friendships with professors. In any educational endeavour, the willingness to take in and believe information depends on the amount of respect one has for the person disseminating the knowledge. The privilege of having committed Christian professors generates a deep respect in all of the science disciplines and brings learning to a richer, per-

sonal level as professors get to know students.

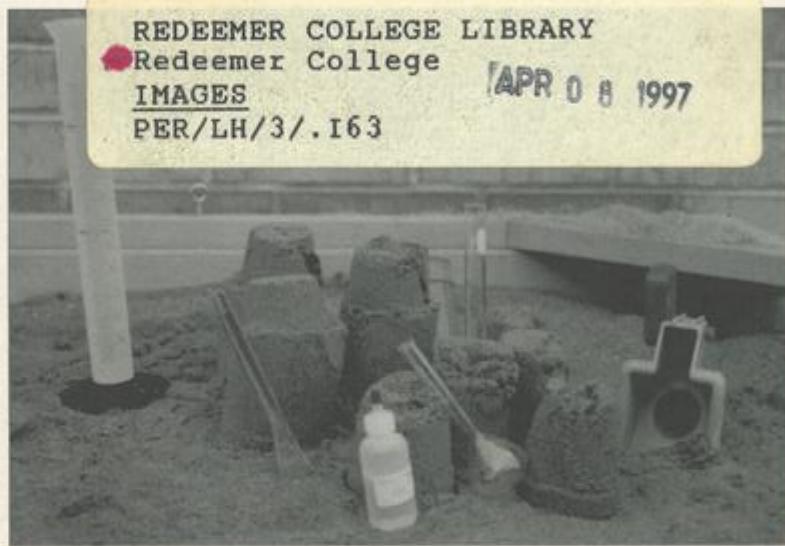
For example, at a recent "graduate school entry" seminar at the University of Western Ontario, I was amazed that so many students had the same question, "How do I find an academic reference?" I had more than one professor who acted as a mentor, let alone one who could provide a standard academic reference! I recently accepted an excellent graduate study position at the University of Wisconsin, primarily due to the strength of my reference letters.

Redeemer alumni also have praise for the benefits of a science program within the context of a liberal arts education, and the focus on scientific writing (which may be appreciated more now than at the time). However, alumni also recognize that there are weaknesses as well. Degree recognition has been a problem, although fewer students have been required to take qualifying years for graduate/professional programs recently as Redeemer gains a wider reputation. Out of 20 different responses to my initial graduate study inquiries to various professors at institutions in Canada and the US, *not one* researcher questioned the quality of Redeemer's degree or

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Homecoming '97

Plans are underway for Homecoming, the annual celebration of Redeemer alumni. This year's activities will be held on **Saturday, September 20**. Although the Board is still working on ideas for the day (and is always open to suggestions), we will again be having a golf tournament, something that many of you have asked for. We also hope to have a number of workshops geared specifically for alumni, and a banquet that will honour the Class of 1987.

All alumni are invited to spend the day on campus, meeting old friends and seeing just how much the college and the Alumni Association have grown. The June issue of *Images* will have full details and registration materials. In the meantime, if you have any comments or suggestions that you would like to make, please direct them to the Alumni Office at Redeemer.

IMAGES

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COMMENT

SCIENCE AND RELIGION: a personal perspective

JEREMY COOK (x89)

Since completing my undergraduate honours B.Sc. in biology, of which the first half was spent at Redeemer College and the second half at McMaster University, I have been working towards my Ph.D. in immunology at the University of Toronto. I hope to finish within a matter of months. Occasionally, someone from the CRC community asks me what it is like to be a (nascent) scientist at a secular university. Is there any room for religion in science?

Judging from the people whom I work with, I would have to say yes. I would estimate that over half of the science graduate students that I know are either Christian, Jewish (practicing), or Muslim. One unfortunate aspect of separate education is that people from the Christian Reformed Church, I believe, tend to overestimate the "secular-ness" of Canadian society. The most surprising discovery that I made when I first started attending a public university is that there is a much higher percentage of "religious" people in the secular world than I had expected.

This is also true of young scientists. The natural conclusion that I would draw from this is that the perceived antagonism between science and faith does not extend

to the level of the individual people involved in science. I believe that much of the bad blood between the church and the laboratory is a result of a vocal minority in both camps. Most scientists know better than to claim that

science proves that God does not exist, but there are exceptions. And there are also some Christians who dispute scientific theories without even considering the evidence upon which they are based. But I hope that these people are in the minority.

I was taught from kindergarten on that God's creation does not dispute God's Word. How could it? They were both spoken by God. So Christian scientists have no more cause for concern than Christian ministers. Both explore different aspects of God's majesty, and if they seem to conflict at times, that is because we see only dimly, and understand little. Nothing that a spirit of openness and love can't easily overcome.

Is there room for religion in Canadian science? Yes. Has my faith been challenged as a scientist? Definitely. But it has been a challenge which I would not have wanted to miss.

At times, I feel like an outsider both amongst Christians and scientists. But I have been pleasantly surprised to discover that many scientists are Christians, and that there is plenty of room for us here.



Jeremy Cook

Writers wanted; we'll even pay

Redeemer College and the Alumni Association are looking for people who would be willing to do some free-lance writing for the college. With the familiarity that alumni have with the college, we feel that alumni would be excellent resources to provide stories for the college's publications.

Although we cannot pay a king's ransom

for work done, we will cover expenses and provide an honorarium.

If you are quick with a pen, and are looking for a way to use your gifts to support the college, please contact Mark Van Beveren, Director of Media and Community Relations at (905) 648-2131 or through e-mail at mvanbev@redeemer.on.ca.

A variety of sandboxes

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even mentioned qualifying year!

Redeemer's course selection seems to be a larger concern, causing students to either outright transfer or tolerate the scheduling and transportation headaches and undertake letter-of-permission work at nearby McMaster University.

Various alumni have also lamented deficiencies in biology, such as biochemistry and molecular biology, and wished for more specialized professors in those areas. The same complaint was also once made about chemistry, but last year the college signed an articulation agreement with the University of Guelph that now allows students to transfer directly to Guelph's chemistry and biochemistry programs in their third year. Another concern is the downsizing of the computer science major due to lack of enrolment.

Paradoxically, other alumni mentioned that their search for desired courses actually enriched their Redeemer education. For example, biology students wanting to study environmental science have the option to attend the Au Sable Institute. Having yet another school, beside the already "novel" Redeemer College, on your transcript really makes you stand apart from public system products, which can be quite beneficial.

Redeemer's science program has come a long way in the 14 years since Dr. van Dijk, Ted Vellenga, and Dr. van der Meer pieced together not only lab equipment and experiments, but also the science program itself. A testimony to the success of Redeemer's science program has been that the school has managed to keep a dedicated core of high quality professors, even though Dr. Howe's departure to serve as a missionary in Asia was a disappointment to many.

Redeemer science alumni have found many different sandboxes in which to play. They are involved in education (elementary, secondary, and post-secondary), medical work (doctors, nurses, physiotherapy, AIDS research), agricultural and natural resource conservation research and consulting, international development, chemistry, and geography. Past students attest to Redeemer science education's success, and future students will no doubt fare equally well, preparing for great careers in their sandboxes.

The Alumni Annual Appeal

Over the last ten years, Redeemer College alumni have made significant contributions to their churches and communities, the work force, academia, and to their families. Now, the Redeemer College Alumni Board is hoping they will strengthen and build Redeemer College through an exciting new fundraising adventure--*The Alumni Annual Appeal*.

Goal to Help Library

For the inaugural campaign this spring, alumni will be asked to help the college take a step forward in the information age. When planning for this campaign began last Fall, Board members Gary Miedema (93) and Doreen Vanderheide (92) met with Chief Librarian Janny Eikelboom and Public Services Librarian Marlene Power to discuss specific ways in which alumni could assist the library. The librarian's resounding cry was clearly heard: the library needs gutsy computers to allow for research on CD-ROM data bases, to provide fast access to Internet resources, and to provide building blocks towards the Library's increasingly electronic future. Thus the goal for the first *Alumni Annual Appeal* will be a new Pentium-powered computer for the library.

Background to Project

The Alumni Annual Appeal is a response to the growing size and maturity of the Alumni Association. Until recently, alumni received the same appeals from the college as the rest of the support community: one in the spring, one in the fall, and one at year-end. Alumni had not been approached as a specific support group, largely because of the financial constraints that most alumni face: young ca-

reers, young families, and not-so-young debts. However, the past few years have seen alumni giving more as they find themselves in an increasingly better position to help build the college that helped build them (see charts below).

The Alumni Board looked to create a vehicle that would enable alumni to contribute in a way that reflects their special relationship with the college. Keeping its collective ear to the ground, the Board heard that alumni would prefer to give towards a specific, concrete, and achievable project, rather than towards a general fund. As a result, the Board worked with the college to create *The Alumni Annual Appeal* -- designed by alumni, directed exclusively to alumni, for a specific capital item.

The Alumni Annual Appeal is part of a larger plan that the Board and the college have developed. The goal is to create a fundraising approach which is more sensitive to the unique relationship that alumni have with the College.

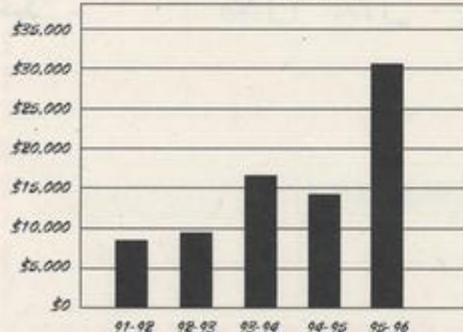
This began last year with the creation of the *Alumni Membership* category, allowing alumni to become members of or to renew their memberships in the college at half of the regular Supporting Membership cost.

With these new changes in fundraising, alumni will continue to receive three requests each year: the Alumni Annual Appeal (in the spring), the Alumni Membership promotion (in the fall), and the Year-End Appeal letter (in November).

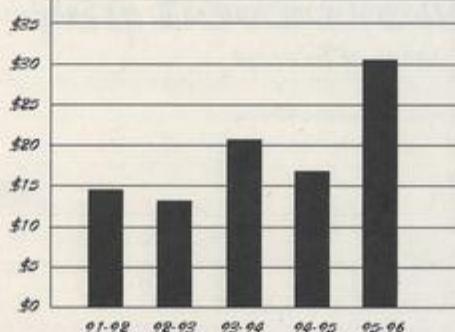
In the next few weeks you will receive an information pamphlet explaining the appeal in more detail. Watch for it. Then please join the more than 1,000 alumni as together we help build and strengthen the people and the place that have helped build and strengthen us.



Total Alumni Giving by Year



Dollars Donated per Alumnus



Fund raiser for hockey team

The Redeemer Royals men's hockey team received a big helping hand this year from a number of former players. The Royal Cup Hockey Tournament raised \$500 dollars to help cover the cost of ice for playoffs for Redeemer's hockey team.

The Organizing Committee, made up of alumni Andrew Pols '93, Rick Schenk '93, Glenn Stelpstra '89, and Don Stelpstra '87, brought a number of teams together at the Ancaster Arena this past Boxing Day in the first of what is planned to be an annual tournament.

The Organizing Committee hopes to invite other colleges, especially Calvin and Dordt, to future tournaments. Watch future issues of *Images* for more details.

Alumni list server up and running

Got something to say to alumni? Want to find out what other alumni are thinking? Join the Alumni LISTSERV Discussion group, an e-mail discussion forum for alumni of Redeemer College.

The LISTSERV is there to help you to keep in touch with the college and with fellow alumni. Although the college and the Alumni Association will provide some information (such as news releases, on-line articles found in *Images* and other Redeemer publications), it is primarily a vehicle for you to discuss the issues that concern you as an alumnus of the college.

We hope that you will use the LISTSERV to provide some feedback on the activities of the college and the association, letting us know where and how we can improve. But you may also wish to post items like personal announcements, prayer requests, requests for help in finding someone--anything that you think would be of interest to alumni.

To join the Alumni LISTSERV Discussion Group, send an e-mail message to: majordomo@redeemer.on.ca. Leave the subject line blank, and in the message body type **subscribe alumni**. You will receive a message shortly thereafter with a welcome and further instructions. If you have any questions, please contact the moderator of the group at wolfert@redeemer.on.ca. See you soon in cyberspace!

PERSONAL TOUCH

► **Allison Schenk (Zomer, 88)** and her husband Harry have been blessed with the birth of a third child, Daniel, brother to Zachary and Rachel. Allison is enjoying the time at home and is keeping very busy with her church involvement at Barrhaven Fellowship CRC. They have recently moved closer to the church to a bigger home to accommodate the growing family. They live at 7 Birkett St., Nepean, Ontario, K2J 2W3 (613) 823-1190. They thank God for His many blessings.

► **Erick (88) and RuthAnn (Dykstra, 89) Schuringa** are thrilled that Benjamin Roel joined their family--born August 26, 1996, a brother for Charlotte (4) and Kara (2). Erick continues to enjoy pastoring at Bethel CRC in Waterdown, ON, and RuthAnn has also joined the church staff as worship coordinator.

► In February, Christy and **Greg Sennema (93)** left for Tanzania to work as service and training volunteers with CRWRC for a two-year period. Letters are most welcome at PO Box 659, Iringa, Tanzania, East Africa; e-mail: woudstra@maf.org.

► **Richard (91) and Margaret (Noordhof, 87) Grift** now reside at 69 James Ave., Brantford, ON, N3S 6Y4 (519) 756-1661; e-mail: rgrift@bfree.on.ca. Rich is pastor at Hope CRC in Brantford. Margaret is at home with Janita (3) and Lydia (1).

► Raymond and **Harriette (VanDorp, 93) Mostert** are happy to announce their marriage. The wedding was held on November 2, 1996. Raymond grows roses and Harriette continues to teach at Clarington Covenant Christian School in Bowmanville. Their address is 1489 Lambs Road, RR#4, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K5 (905) 623-7975.

► **Rick and Linda (Visser, 88) Sennema** are living in Mount Hope. Linda is at home with their three children, Jocelyn (3), Tyler (2) and Willem (3 mos.). Rick is a firefighter for the city of Hamilton.

► **Bret and Lorraine (Vermeer, 88) Otte** moved to Mt. Pleasant, MI where Bret is working as a track & field coach at Central Michigan University. They are pleased to announced the birth of their second son, Jacob Nicholas on Nov. 11, a brother for Andre (2). After teaching biology for five years, Lorraine has gone on to get her massage therapy certification. She enjoys staying home with the children and doing massage therapy part time. They live at 4200 E. Wing, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 (517) 775-3301; e-mail: Bret.Otte@cmuvn.csv.cmich.edu.



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ALUMNI MAKING THE RIGHT CONNECTION

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► **Tony and Betty (Dykerman, 90) Steenbeek** announce the birth of Derek Andrew. Derek was born on Sept. 12, 1996.

► **Jeff and Pat Hoogendoorn** have moved to Victoria, B.C. and welcome contact from

friends and classmates. They can be reached at 4626 Pipeline Rd., Victoria, BC V8Z 5M4 (250) 744-2557; e-mail: ww469@freenet.victoria.bc.ca.

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